

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

From: Nancy Schuldt
Sent: Wed 2/5/2014 3:00:08 PM
Subject: RE: February 3 Wild Rice Standards Study Advisory Committee

And to continue this line of discussion, I would submit that the lessons I learned at the very start of my graduate Biometry course emphasized the value of beginning one's analysis of environmental data by simply plotting it. From Sokal and Rohlf (Third Edition) Chapter 2: "The distribution of a variable is of considerable biological interest. A distribution that is asymmetrical and drawn out in one direction tells us that there is, perhaps, selection for or against organisms

falling in one of the tails of the distribution....After data have been obtained in a given study, they must be arranged in a form suitable for computation and interpretation...researchers should be aware that the sequence of observations may contain valuable information...records of original observations and their sequence should not be discarded; they may be important in tracing and solving problems of sampling or of measurement.”

It is my understanding that MPCA directed their researchers to simply provide their data in a final report, and that the agency will work with them to establish and implement the appropriate statistical techniques for discerning significant relationships that can support a particular numeric criterion. What we have seen from the research reports was not intended to be fully interpretive.

Nancy

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Until these plotted data are subjected to an appropriate statistical analysis, to objectively discriminate the differences among them, this will remain a pointless glass half-full vs. half-empty discussion for the rest of this short month.

Joe M.

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Hello, Shannon, Committee Members and Stakeholders:

WaterLegacy does not object to the way in which Amy Myrbo presented her data, as reproduced in the MPCA slide presentation yesterday. However, WaterLegacy believes that it is important to also provide this information in a chart rendered to scale so that the degree of clustering is evident. We also support Nancy Schultdt's recommendation that the nature of effort taken to obtain data on wild rice present in high sulfate waters should be explicitly documented. Although the data on these outliers is scientifically important, the fact that they are outliers is also important in terms of evaluating whether the data supports a change in the existing 10 mg/L sulfate standard.

WaterLegacy would also repeat our request that the 861 articles collected by the MPCA related to this process be provided to advisory committee members in electronic form on CD or with a web site link. This would help citizens and community groups, such as ours, have access to the information on a level playing field with industry participants. We would suggest that the fair use by the MPCA of these articles includes the ability of the Agency to share them with members of a legislatively-appointed committee within the scope of work the committee is performing as a service to the Agency in its rulemaking function.

Please let us know what progress you make in resolving this issue. Thank you.

Paula Maccabee, Esq.

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Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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Counsel/Advocacy Director for WaterLegacy

From: Len Anderson **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 10:07 AM

Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy

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Subject: RE: February 3 Wild Rice Standards Study Advisory Committee PowerPoint

Resent-From: Paula Maccabee **Ex. 6 - Personal Privacy**

Resent-Date: Tue, 04 Feb 2014 10:14:00 -0600

Shannon, I would like to make one observation. Our committee and even observers represent an extremely scientifically sophisticated group. As such we can nit pic details for ever and that is a good function for us. However, in a very short time these results will have to be available to the general public and to legislators. As a forty year science educator, I have a good handle on the scientific literacy of the average Joe on the street. I think the three way comparisons that Ed did on the Power Point slides 11 and 12 along with his explanations were very understandable. There are other ways to visually display that data, but I doubt they would be as understandable to the general public.

Thank you. Len Anderson